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SECURITY INFORMATION

JAN 28 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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26 January 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: Board of National Estimates
FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
SUBJECT : Terms of Reference, NIE-27/1

1. Attached is a copy of draft Terms of Reference for your review.

2. It is our intention to discuss the Communist threat to Taiwan primarily in terms of present Chinese Communist commitments because General Smith appears to be concerned with the prospect for an early attack on Taiwan. Furthermore, since the paper is to be done on an urgent basis, we believe that we should limit its scope to the present, realistic outlook for continued hostilities in Korea. Finally, we believe that an armistice in Korea will so change the situation in the Far East as to require new estimates of Chinese Communist capabilities. We did not explicitly state the assumption of continued hostilities because that would confine us to a more narrow discussion throughout the paper than we might find desirable.

3. The Board will recall the difficulties experienced in NIE-27 when dealing with the Nationalist capabilities to defend Taiwan because of the problem of war-gaming a situation in which US forces are directly involved. This problem will undoubtedly arise in NIE-27/1. The Terms of Reference have attempted to cope with this problem in Section III, B, but this will probably not be a satisfactory approach. The Board might want to take this occasion to take advantage of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] to the effect that he had arranged with the JCS to provide CIA with any information required concerning the US Order of Battle.

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